

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) In a~~A~~ method for verifying the authenticity of a document, wherein said document comprises a carrier with a plurality of perforations, wherein at least part of the perforations have an elongate cross section with a minimum and a maximum diameter, the improvements comprising the steps of

viewing the document from at least one viewing direction that is non-perpendicular to a surface of the carrier and

deriving the authenticity from an optical transmission of said perforations in said viewing,

wherein said perforations ~~(5a, 5b)~~ extend through said carrier ~~(1)~~ in a direction perpendicular to said surface.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of comparing the optical transmission of said perforations with an expected optical transmission.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1~~2~~, wherein the document is viewed from at least one direction that is perpendicular to a direction parallel to the maximum diameter of at least some of the perforations.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the document is viewed from at least one direction that is perpendicular to a direction parallel to the minimum diameter of at least some of the perforations.

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the minimum diameter is substantially equal to or smaller than a thickness of the carrier.

7. (previously presented) A security document comprising
a carrier, and
a security feature with perforations in said carrier,
wherein at least one of the perforations has an elongate cross section with a minimum
and a maximum diameter,
wherein at least two of the perforations have different cross sections,
wherein said perforations extend through the carrier perpendicular to a surface of the
carrier, and
wherein said cross sections have equal areas.

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) The security document of claim 7, wherein said plurality of perforations comprises a first type and a second type of perforations, wherein the minimum diameter of the first type of perforations is parallel to the maximum diameter of the second type of perforations.

10. (previously presented) The security document of 7, wherein said plurality of perforations have equal area of cross section and therefore uniform transmission when being viewed from a viewing direction perpendicular a surface of said carrier.
11. (previously presented) The security document of claim 7, wherein said perforations form a human recognizable transmission pattern when viewed under an angle that is non-perpendicular to a surface of the carrier.
12. (canceled)
13. (previously presented) The security document of claim 7 wherein each perforation has substantially uniform cross section through said document.
14. (previously presented) The security document of claim 7, wherein the carrier is of flexible plastic or paper.
15. (previously presented) The security document of claim 7, wherein some of said perforations have circular cross section and/or are arranged in a two-dimensional array.
16. (previously presented) The security document of claim 7, wherein the minimum diameter is substantially equal to or smaller than a thickness of the carrier.

17. (currently amended) The security document of ~~any of~~ claim 7, wherein the minimum diameters of all perforations are equal and parallel to each other.
18. (currently amended) The security document pattern of ~~any of~~ claim 7, wherein the maximum diameter is at least 1.5 times larger than the minimum diameter.
19. (previously presented) The security document of claim 7 wherein the security document is a banknote or part of a passport.
20. (previously presented) The security document of claim 7 wherein at least some of said perforations are arranged in a two-dimensional array.
21. (currently amended) A security document comprising
a carrier,
a first type of perforations in said carrier having a first cross section, and
a second type of perforations in said carrier having a second cross section,
wherein said first cross section is different from said second cross section but said first cross section has an equal area as said second cross section,
wherein at least said first type of perforations are elongate, and
wherein said first and second types of perforations extend through said document in a direction perpendicular to a surface of the carrier.